

**CAADP SIDE EVENT DURING THE 4TH FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SANTON CONVENTION CENTER
SOUTH AFRICA**

Introduction

Colleagues, we are very delighted with the level of progress achieved in the implementation of CAADP.

We are especially delighted that among some RECs CAADP synomous with their regional agriculture and food security programs. We have indeed reached a stage in many respects where CAADP has a life of its own.

We are also grateful to the development partners most of whom continue to speak to CAADP as the framework for the restoration of agriculture growth in Africa. We note for instance with appreciation that the Global platform for rural development has embraced CAADP as one of its major area of focus.

The CAADP process is now on the country level. The Rwanda success has provided additional confidence to the process. There was unquestionable support of the CAADP RT in Rwanda. The signing of the compact by the AU commissioner, the Ministers of Finance and agriculture from the Rwanda Government, the World Bank representing the donor community, COMESA and the private section – was a land mark. We would like to particularly applaude the Minister of Finance fro being party to the compact. We believe Ministers of Finance hold the key to the Maputo commitment of increasing budget allocation to agriculture by 10% by year 2008. It is the members of finance that make decisions regarding financial allocation to Ministries in an environment of multiple competing national priorities.

There are a couple of challenges that we would like to see addressed.

The first challenge relates to moving rapidly with the RoundTable processes to cover more countries. COMESA would like to see eight (8) countries sign their compacts by December 2008. If this were accomplished, with the same focus and enthusiasm that was associated with the Rwanda process, this would be a major milestone. We shall be keen to hear the plans in moving towards the satisfactory convening of Round Tables in the COMESA region.

Following our recent meeting with the COMESA SG, we believe this is achievable!

The second challenge relates to follow up action after the RT process including the signing of the compact. Are we to assure that the signing of the compact will

make things happen, will stimulate responses to the identified policy and investment gaps?

Are we to assure that national governments will automatically follow up on the compact? It is critical that we acknowledge that government bureaucracies are unlikely to be transformed/reformed overnight because of the compact. It will be a mess if both COMESA & NEPAD were to fold their arms with the expectation that ministries of agriculture will take steps to respond to the outcomes of the Round Tables.

There is clearly a case for energizing the process we have embarked upon. There is clearly more advocacy work than is required. There is a strong case for defining a monitoring & evaluation mechanism that could very well serve as a basis for stimulating actions in moving CAADP towards implementation on the country level.

This is one area where the intervention of a local national or regional knowledge centre or a centre of Excellence could come into support with specific actions that might fast track implementation of concrete interventions that might have been identified through the CAADP Round Tables.

Under each of the four pillars, it is AU/NEPAD's intention to define, lead African institutions that will collectively spearhead the desired technical backstopping in the implementation of CAADP. Indeed Africa is not short of such institutions.

From our development partners, we would like more of you to come into the CAADP fold. We believe CAADP has generated not only confidence within the continent and among most development partners as a useful tool, process and platform in the transformation of agriculture in Africa.